industrialisation in the notified hilly, remote and inaccessible areas.

Under the Transport Subsidy Scheme, subsidy ranging between 50% to 90% is admissible on the transportation cost incurred on movement of raw material and finished goods from the designated Rail head/port up to the location of the industrial unit and vice-versa.

Capital Investment Subsidy is payable to industrial units located in the identified areas of the North-Eastern States @ 15% of their investment in plant and machinery subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 30 lakhs.

(b) The year-wise and State-wise amount of transport subsidy released to the States in the North-Eastern Region since the inception of the scheme is given in the [Annexure *See Appendix* 184, Annexure No. 106] No. claim under the Capital Investment subsidy Scheme has been preferred as the scheme has been notified recently.

(c) The Transport Subsidy Scheme is implemented through the agency of the State Government and works on the principle of disbursement/reimbursement basis i.e. the claims are first disbursed by the State Government to the eligible units and reimbursement claimed thereafter from the Central Government. The details of the outstanding cases including that of PSUs are not centrally maintained. However, the State Government of Assam has forwarded the transport subsidy claims of (i) M/s. Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. for Rs. 3,38,73,530/- and (ii) M/s. Cement Corporation of India Ltd. for Rs. 41,82,968/- for disbursement by the Central Government.

Decline in the Industrial Production

4338. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth of capital vis-a-vis consumer industries production during the last three years on quarterly basis;

(b) whether there has been decline in the industrial production during 1997-98;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of measures taken to improve industrial production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The Quarterly growth rates as per the Index of Industrial Production (Base 1993-94=100) in the capital goods and consumer goods sector during the last three years are as follows:

	Capital Goods	Consumer Goods
1995-96		
April-June	5.2	15.1
July-Sept.	8.6	9.5
Oct.-Dec.	6.8	11.6
Jan.-March	(-)2.1	13.2
1996-97		
April-June	18.0	14.1
July-Sept.	9.1	5.6
Oct.-Dec.	6.7	1.2
Jan.-March	5.5	0.9
1997-98		
April-June	2.1	(-)1.8
July-Sept.	5.1	7.3
Oct.-Dec.	3.0	8.7
Jan.-March	(-)6.0	9.7

(b) to (c) There has been an increase in the growth rate of the Index of Industrial Production (Base 1993-94=100), which was 6.2% for 1997-98 as compared to 5.6% during 1996-97.

(d) Several initiatives have been proposed in the budget of 1998-99 to improve industrial production. Important amongst them are:

(i) 35% increase in the current year's plan outlay on key infrastructure sector.

(ii) Two more sectors namely Coal and Lignite and petroleum products have been de-licensed to attract larger inflow of capital.

(iii) Tariff structure has been rationalised to remove the disadvantages faced by domestic industry and provide a level playing field.

(iv) Several initiatives have been announced to make Small Scale Industry more competitive in the emerging environment.

(v) Disinvestment to a specified portion of equity in certain PSUs.